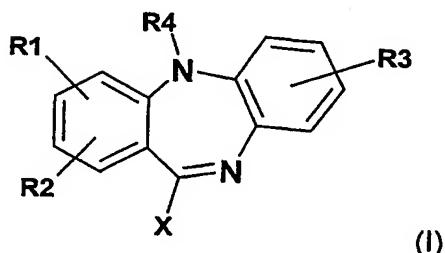
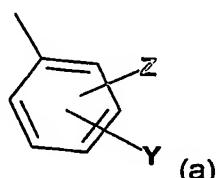


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



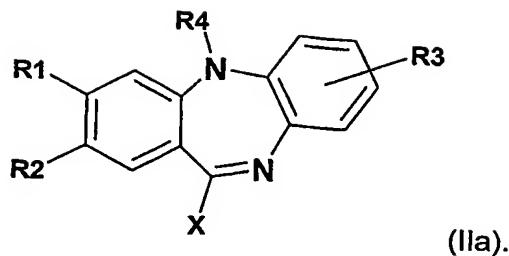
wherein R₁ and R₂, independently of each other, represent hydrogen, or C₁-C₇-alkyl, or R₁ and R₂ together with the carbon atoms of the phenyl ring to which they bind form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered cycloalkyl ring, which ring may optionally be substituted by one or more C₁-C₇-alkyl groups, which alkyl groups may also together form one or more 3-, 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered rings; R₃ represents -CN, -CO-R₅, or hydrogen, provided that, if R₃ is hydrogen, R₄ must represent C₃-C₇-alkenyl or C₃-C₇-alkynyl; R₅ represents aryl, or alkyl being unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, C₁-C₇-alkoxy, carboxyl or aryl; R₄ represents C₁-C₇-alkyl, C₂-C₇-alkenyl or C₂-C₇-alkynyl or R₄ represents C₂-C₇-alkanoyl; and X represents ligand (a),



wherein Y may be in ortho, meta or para position and wherein Y represents carboxyl, C₁-C₇-alkoxy-carbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, tetrazolyl, SO₃H or P(O)(OH)₂; and wherein Z represents hydrogen or a substituent selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₇-alkyl, C₁-C₇-alkoxy, halogen, CF₃, cyano and NO₂.

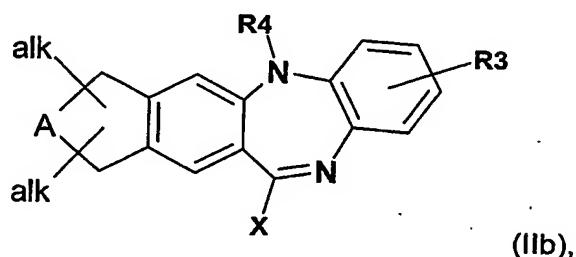
2. Compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are positioned as illustrated in formula (IIa).

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(IIa).

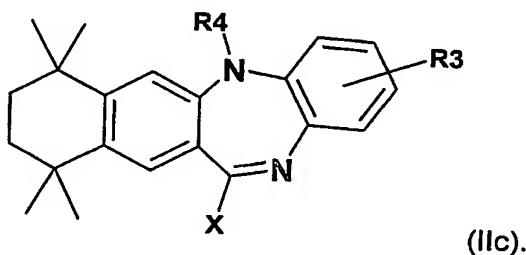
3. Compound of claim 1 of formula (IIb)



(IIb),

wherein *alk* in each case represent C₁-C₇-alkyl and *A* is CH₂, CH₂CH₂, or CH₂CH₂CH₂.

4. Compound of claim 1 of formula (IIc).



(IIc).

5. Compound of claim 1, wherein *X* represents p-carboxyphenyl.

6. Compound of claim 1, wherein *R*₁ and *R*₂ together with the two carbon atoms on the phenyl ring to which *R*₁ and *R*₂ respectively bind form 5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene ring; *X* represents 4-carboxy-phenyl; *R*₃ is cyano or C₂-C₅-alkanoyl; and *R*₄ represents C₁-C₇-alkyl, C₂-C₇-alkenyl or C₂-C₇-alkynyl.

7. Compound of claim 6, wherein for *R*₃ is in the para-position relative to N-*R*₄ in formula (I).

8. Compound of claim 6, wherein R₄ represents C₁-C₇-alkyl and preferably methyl or ethyl.
9. A compound according to formula (I), or a salt thereof, for use in the treatment of the human body.
10. Use of a RXR-antagonist, in particular in accordance to the definition of formula (I), in the manufacture of a medicament for delaying progression of, preventing or treating a condition or disease being associated with RXR-antagonism, in particular selected from diabetes, type-2-diabetes, complication of diabetes such as retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy, and hyperlipidemia, obesity, dyslipidemia, and osteoporosis.
11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 in association with a pharmacologically and pharmaceutically acceptable additive.
12. A method of delaying progression of, preventing or treating a condition or disease being associated with RXR-antagonism, which method comprises the steps of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a RXR antagonist, which method comprises the steps of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or of a more preferred compound selected from the compounds according to formulae (IIc), (IId), (IIia), (IIib), (IIic), (IIId), (IIie) and (IIIf), to a patient in need of such treatment, wherein said condition or disease associated with RXR-antagonism is preferably selected from the group consisting of diabetes, type-2-diabetes, diabetic complication such as retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy, and hyperlipidemia, obesity, dyslipidemia, and osteoporosis.